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MIN. OF HEALTH

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Urban District of Ilfracombe.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1940.





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## **Public Health Committee :**

*Chairman :* COUNCILLOR W. H. ROULSTONE.

### COUNCILLORS :

J. ARMSTRONG.

J. H. GILBERT.

E. G. BAUGH.

T. MERCER

H. BRYANT.

W. E. TREBBLE.

R. FAIRCHILD.

J. D. WALLER and

Mrs. H. FARNDELL.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL  
(Councillor H. E. KNILL, J.P.)

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## **Public Health Staff :**

### *Part-Time Officer :*

*Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital—*

D. C. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### *Whole-Time Officers :*

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :*

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

*Junior Assistant :* R. E. COURTNEY.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.**

MRS. FARNDELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report which deals with the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council during the year ended 31st December, 1940.

The Report is constructed on the lines indicated in the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health and is an Interim one.

The population of the Urban District at the 1931 Census was 9,175; the Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the middle of the year was 10,160.

The Matron of the Isolation Hospital, Miss B. George, resigned her position and left on 9th September, the Council appointed Miss Grace Carrick of West Ham, who took up duty on 28th October.

Owing to the very large amount of work thrown on the department in consequence of war conditions the amount of ordinary work has had to be curtailed but all essential duties have received attention.

Your Obedient Servant,

August, 1941.

D. C. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



# Statistical Memoranda, 1940.

Area (excluding Foreshore) .. .. .	5,627 acres
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940) .. .. .	2,603
New Houses Certified during 1940 .. .. .	—
Rateable Value (1st April, 1940) .. .. .	£85,857
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£357 14s. 9d.
Rainfall during 1940 .. .. .	1,009.1 m.m.
Bright Sunshine during 1940 .. .. .	1684.9 hours

## Vital Statistics.

				Males.	Females.	Total
<i>Live Births.</i>	Legitimate	..	..	42	46	88
	Illegitimate	..	..	2	2	4
						—
						92
<i>Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..						9.5
				Males.	Females.	Total
<i>Still Births.</i>	Legitimate	..	..	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	..	..	0	0	0
						—
						3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) .. .. .						30.33
				Males.	Females.	Total
<i>Deaths</i> .. .. .				56	62	118
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..						11.6
<i>Corrected Death Rate</i> .. .. .						8.4

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	0	—
Other Maternal Causes .. .. .	1	9.71

## INFANT MORTALITY.

For Infant Mortality, etc., calculations the Registrar General gives the following figures :—

			Males.	Females.	Total
<i>Live Births.</i>	Legitimate	..	47	49	96
	Illegitimate	..	2	2	4
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .				50	
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .				52.1	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .				Nil	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .					0
,,     ,,   Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .					0
,,     ,,   Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .					1



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females
All causes .. .. .	56	62
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever .. .. .	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever .. .. .	—	—
Scarlet fever .. .. .	—	—
Whooping cough .. .. .	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. .. .	3	2
Other forms of tuberculosis .. .. .	1	—
Influenza .. .. .	—	2
Measles .. .. .	—	—
Cancer .. .. .	5	4
Diabetes .. .. .	2	—
Intra-cran. vascular lesions .. .. .	2	4
Heart disease .. .. .	15	22
Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	6	3
Bronchitis .. .. .	7	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	3
Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. .. .	1	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years .. .. .	1	—
Appendicitis .. .. .	—	—
Other digestive diseases .. .. .	1	3
Nephritis .. .. .	2	3
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis .. .. .	—	—
Other maternal causes .. .. .	—	1
Premature Birth .. .. .	—	2
Congenital malformation ; infant dis. .. .. .	—	1
Suicide .. .. .	—	1
Road traffic accidents .. .. .	1	1
Other violent causes .. .. .	1	—
All other causes .. .. .	4	7

The Tuberculosis Death rate was 0.59 per 1,000.

Cancer was responsible for 9 deaths, equal to a rate of  
0.89 per 1,000.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Detailed particulars of these services were given in the Annual Report for the year 1932; there has been no material change during the past year.

### Water Supply.

Two routine samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. In each case the report showed the sample to be “ of a satisfactory degree of organic and bacterial purity.”

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.														Cases admitted to I. Hospital	Deaths.														Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over		Total		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over			
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	...					1	1							2																
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	3	3	6	5	2	20	4	6		1		96	77															
Enteric Fever ...	...									1				1	1															
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1												1																
Pneumonia ...	...					1	1	1	1					3			1							1	1	3	6			
Erysipelas ...	...									1				1																
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...						1		1			1		3	3															
Measles ...	...	1	2	2	3	5	7	6	2	2	1			76																

## Tuberculosis.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
25 to 35 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
45 to 55 years	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	6	1	2	3	2	1	—

**Disinfection of Rooms and Articles.** 105 rooms were disinfected as follows :— Scarlet Fever, 81 rooms; Tuberculosis, 3 rooms; Other diseases, 21 rooms.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# SANITARY INSPECTOR

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**Complaints.** 47 complaints were received and investigated, the necessary action being taken to obtain the abatement of any nuisances which came within the scope of the Public Health Acts.

### Notices Served.

Statutory (under Public Health Acts) ...	...	...	...	—
Informal do. ...	...	...	...	18
Verbal do. ...	...	...	...	21
Notices re infectious disease ...	...	...	...	112
Total				151

### Letters and Circulars sent.

Relating to Milk Supply ...	...	...	...	78
„ Food ...	...	...	...	22
„ Petroleum Act ...	...	...	...	42
Total				142

### SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight ...	...	...	...	8
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	2
Damp walls remedied ...	...	...	...	2
External plastering repaired ...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired ...	...	...	...	4
Yards drained and repaired ...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed ...	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	8
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced ...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleared ...	...	...	...	23
Inspection chambers repaired ...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes cleared... ...	...	...	...	3
Soil pipes repaired ...	...	...	...	2
Factory ceilings cleansed ...	...	...	...	6
do. walls cleansed ...	...	...	...	6
do. floors cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
do. water closets cleansed ...	...	...	...	2
do. drains cleared ...	...	...	...	2
Shop walls cleansed... ...	...	...	...	1
do. water closets cleansed ...	...	...	...	3
do. walls cleansed... ...	...	...	...	2



# Factories & Workshops Act, 1901.

## Factories Act, 1937.

### 1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspection (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecuted Occupiers (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	34	0	0
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	82	0	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	16	0	0
Total ... ..	132	0	0

### 2. **Defects found.**

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	6	6	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	Nil	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ... ..	Nil	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	—	—	—
Other offences... ..	2	2	—	—
(not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Power) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total ... ..	10	10	Nil	Nil

## Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of infestation was reported during the year.

## Housing.

### Housing Statistics.

#### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	53
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	206
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	0
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	28

#### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ..	28
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#### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

##### A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners	... ..	0
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

##### B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	28
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices :		
	(a)	By owners	... ..	0
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0



C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	6½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	3
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	22
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions. For the purpose of the Overcrowding Survey, the rooms in a further 2 houses were measured. This now makes a total of 1,104 houses which have been measured.	

**Camping Grounds.** Very little use was made of camping grounds during 1940 and only a few sites were in use.

14 visits of inspection were made, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

**Beaches and Pleasure Grounds.** Refuse and litter are regularly cleared from the beaches and pleasure grounds and during the year no serious nuisance occurred.



# Inspection and Supervision of Food.

## MILK SUPPLY.

Work carried out in connection with the milk supply during 1940 included :—

35 inspections of farms.  
45 inspections of cowsheds.  
107 inspections of dairies.  
130 inspections of dairymen's vehicles.  
71 samples of milk obtained.

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Premises within the Urban District :

Cowkeepers on Register (31st December, 1940)	...	45
Registered as Producer Retailers	...	27
Registered as Producer Wholesalers	...	27
Registered as Producer Retailers and Wholesalers		7
Retailers with dairy only—non-producers	...	29

Persons who sell milk within the Urban District but whose premises are situated outside the district :

Registered as Producer Retailers	...	18
Registered as Producer Wholesalers	...	46
Registered as Producer Retailers and Wholesalers		5

In addition to the above, 37 persons who retail cream only in the Ilfracombe Market are registered.

### Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The Methylene Blue Reduction Test is used for all samples.

66 samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist, 56 of these passed and 10 failed.

### Tuberculosis Examination of Milk samples.

7 samples were taken from bulk supplies of milk and forwarded to the County Bacteriologist to be examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli by means of guinea pig inoculation.

Tubercle bacilli were not found in any of the samples.

## Meat and Other Foods.

During 1940, the following inspections were made in connection with the supervision of the food supply:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	365
Food Purveyors' Shops	...	...	383
Markets	...	...	68
Bakehouses	...	...	19
Food Hawkers' Vehicles	...	...	44
Meat Carriers' Vehicles	...	...	78
Preserved Meat Dealers' Premises	...	...	39
Ice Cream Dealers' Premises	...	...	27
Cafés and Hotels	...	...	23
Other Food Premises	...	...	19

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	650	82	60	5,069	725
Number inspected	650	82	60	5,069	725
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	0	27	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	133	12	0	453	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20.46	17.1	0	8.93	2.35
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	3	0	1	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	41	0	0	102
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	2.77	53.68	0	.0019	14.48

## Animals inspected and found to show evidence of disease or unsoundness

TABLE I.—*Cases in which whole carcase and organs destroyed.*

Disease or Condition		Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep or Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis	..	—	3	—	1	3
Emaciation	..	—	—	—	1	—
Joint-ill	..	—	—	—	—	—
Pyrexia	..	—	1	—	1	—
Oedema	..	—	—	—	2	—
Sapraemia	..	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia	..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	—	4	—	5	3

### Unsound Food.

Weight of Unsound Meat and Offals destroyed during 1940 :

		Tuberculosis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total
Beef ...	...	2,314	1,240	3,554
Beef Offals	...	1,697	2,907	4,604
Pork ...	...	1,852	94	1,946
Pork Offals	...	85	56	141
Mutton	...	94	2,395	2,489
Mutton Offals	...	55	767	822
Total	...	6,097	7,459	13,566

Of the total amount of Meat and Offals, 13,207 lbs. were surrendered after examination at the Public Abattoir, the remaining 149 lbs. being surrendered after examination either in Private Slaughterhouses or in shops



### Other Unsound Foods Destroyed.

Apples	..	2 tins	Jellies	..	2 jars
Apricots	..	4 „	Cereals	..	13 packets
Capers	..	1 tin	Coffee	...	1 bottle
Cherries	..	7 tins	Calves' Foot Jelly	..	1 tin
Gooseberries	..	1 tin	Galantine	..	2 tins
Grape fruit	..	15 tins	Ham	..	9 „
Greengages	..	3 „	Mince Meat	..	2 jars
Pears	..	10 „	Tongue	..	4 tins
Pineapples	..	32 „	Veal	..	1 tin
Plums	..	6 „	Milk	..	9 tins
Prunes	..	1 tin	Olive Oil	..	1 bottle
Raspberries	..	19 tins	Pickles	..	6 jars
Strawberries	..	7 „	Pudding	..	5 pkts.
Tomatoes	..	2 „	Rennet	..	2 bottles
Mixed Jam	..	11 jars	Vinegar	..	2 „
Asparagus	..	1 tin	Waterglass	..	1 tin
Beans	..	5 tins	Anchovies	..	5 tins
Gherkins	..	1 bottle	Crab	..	1 tin
Peas	..	4 tins	Plaice	..	1 box
Spinach	..	1 tin	Salmon	..	4 tins
Sauces	..	6 bottles	Smacklets	..	1 tin
Soups	..	4 tins	Fish Paste	..	4 jars
Cordials	..	2 „			

The total weight of the above amounted to 3 cwts., 0 qrs., 1 lb.

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**Shops Act, 1934.** 163 inspections were made in accordance with this Act, a number of defects were found and remedied.

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

In consequence of complaints, three informal samples of ice cream were obtained and submitted to the Public Analyst, the reports showed that no deleterious substance was present. Four formal samples of milk were forwarded to the Public Analyst, three of the samples were reported as "genuine," the other sample showed a deficiency of fat, an "appeal to the cow" sample was taken and showed a similar result.

## Public Cleansing.

The collection of house and trade refuse is carried out by contract under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Modern vehicles of the rear loading type and fitted with movable rubber floors are in use and have proved efficient. 164 loads of house refuse and 102 loads of trade refuse was collected during the year.

Since the war commenced an effort has been made to salvage as much material as possible and the quantity salvaged has, month by month, shown an increase.

Materials salvaged during 1940 consisted of :

		Number	Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...		38	2	1	8
Iron	...		14	14	0	0
Aluminium	...			3	0	20
Copper	...				3	20
Brass	...			6	3	2
Zinc	...			2	3	10
Lead	...			6	2	16
Other metals...					3	10
Textiles	...		2	13	1	13
Bottles	...	1100		8	2	0
Jars	...	280		2	0	0
Rubber	...				2	8
Rabbit Skins...		72				18
Leaves	...	4 loads	2	0	0	0
			—	—	—	—
			59	2	0	13
			—	—	—	—

The sum received for salvaged materials was £219 9s. 6½d., the men employed in the collection and disposal received a bonus on the amount salvaged from the refuse.

## Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

53 licences were issued for the storage of a total of 41,310 gallons of petroleum-spirit.

One licence to store 40 gallons of petroleum mixture was granted.

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority was £30.

205 inspections were made under the Act.









